



ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Date: December 19, 2017

Subject: Resolution to include the Asian American Resource Center Phase 2 expansion in
2018 Bond Election

Motioned By: Nguyen Stanton

Seconded By: Pooja Sethi

WHEREAS, the Asian American Resource Center (AARC) facility was funded by voter approved bonds in 2006, was constructed in 2013, and has been operated by Austin Parks and Recreation Department since opening; and

WHEREAS, the number of visitors to the AARC facility has doubled from 22,700 in fiscal year 2014 to 53,650 in fiscal year 2017, the facility is booked up to one year in advance, and the needs of community-based organizations can no longer be accommodated; and

WHEREAS, the AARC facility in partnership with community-based organizations, provides Austin residents with a variety of programs, including tax preparation services, ESL classes, art and historical exhibits, business classes, free lunches for senior citizens, recreational programs, and summer camps for kids; and

WHEREAS, the AARC facility provides an opportunity to learn about the vibrant cultures of Asia and the long rich history of Asians in Texas and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has allocated \$200,000 in the fiscal year 2018 budget for the development of a Master Plan for the expansion of the AARC facility; and

WHEREAS, the Network of Asian American Organizations (NAAO) recently conducted a community needs assessment survey where over 90% of the respondents recommended an expansion of the AARC facility to meet the growing needs for space to accommodate educational programs, community meetings, social gatherings, and celebratory events.

WHEREAS, the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission was formed by the Austin City Council to advise them on AARC facility operations and Asian American quality of life initiatives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission recommends that the Austin City Council include \$15 million in the 2018 Bond Election for the expansion of the AARC facility to increase capacity and meet the growing and changing needs of Austin residents.

PASSED AND ADOPTED

Vote: 11-0

For: Vincent Cobalis, Peter Chao, Catherina Conte, Janki DePalma, Richard Jung, Kavita Radhakrisnan, Pooja Sethi, Nguyen Stanton, Molly Wang, Kirk Yoshida

Against: None

Absent: Shabhada Saxena, Aporajita Ahmed, Pramod Patil, Debasree DasGupta(left early)

Recusal: None

Attest: